

CLAIMS:

1. A recording device (10, 20, 30) for recording audio/video programs on a recording medium (14, 24) and/or reproducing them, having program receiving means (2) for receiving audio/video programs, having program selecting means (12, 22, 23) for selecting receivable audio/video programs for recording or reproduction, having storage means for storing a user identifier (ID) (13, 23, 33) identifying the recording/reproducing device or a user thereof, characterized in that the program selecting means (12, 22, 32) are arranged to give access to a user profile (15, 55a, 55b) for the recording/reproducing device and to a group list (16, 56a, 56b) containing user identifiers (IDs) for other recording/reproducing devices, and in that information receiving means (3) are provided for receiving sets of program selection information (11, 21, 31, 51) that can be correlated with the user identifiers (13, 23, 33) contained in the group list (16, 56a, 56b), wherein the program selecting means (12, 22, 32) are arranged to determine the audio/video programs to be selected, from the sets of program selection information (11, 21, 31, 51) received and by reference to the access to the user profile (15, 55a, 55b).
2. A recording/reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the program selecting means (12, 22) are arranged to create a timer list for the time-controlled recording/reproducing of the receivable audio/video programs, the timer list preferably being storable in a non-volatile memory in the recording/reproducing device.
3. A recording/reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the group list (16) and/or the user profile (15) can be stored in a non-volatile memory in the recording/reproducing device (10).
4. A recording/reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the group list (56a, 56b) and/or the user profile (55a, 55b) are/is downloadable to the recording/reproducing device (20, 30) via the information receiving means (3).

5. A recording/reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized by information transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier (ID) (13, 23, 33) and the program selection information (11, 21, 31) created by the program selecting means (12, 22, 32) on being requested to do so by external devices, the transmission preferably being
5 limitable by reference to the access rights defined in the group list (16, 56a, 56b).

6. A recording/reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the recording/reproducing device (30) is a TV set and the programs selected by the program selecting means (32) are offered to a viewer via on-screen information, in which case a final
10 selection can, where applicable, be made by the viewer, preferably via a remote control.

7. A recording/reproducing system (1) having at least two recording/reproducing devices (10, 20, 30) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that communication means (40) for transmitting program selection information (11, 21, 31) and user identifiers (IDs) (13, 23,
15 33) are provided between the recording/reproducing devices (10, 20, 30).

8. A recording/reproducing system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the communication means (40) provide a connection to a server computer (50) that manages group lists (56a, 56b) and/or user profiles (55a, 55b) and/or user identifiers (IDs) (53) and
20 associated sets of program selection information (51) from recording/reproducing devices connectable via the communication means.

9. A method of operating a server to obtain information from and transmit information to a plurality of recording/reproducing devices as claimed in claim 1 that are
25 connected to the server and, if required, to one another via the communication means, characterized in that the server (50) reads in and stores (53, 51) user identifiers (IDs) (13, 23, 33) and associated sets of program selection information (11, 21, 31) from the recording/reproducing devices connected to it, and in that, on being requested by a recording/reproducing device (10, 20, 30) to transmit user identifiers (IDs), sets of program
30 selection information, group lists (56a, 56b) and/or user profiles (55a, 55b), it transmits the information requested thereto while allowing for access rights.

10. A method of operating a server as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the server adds additional information, e.g. program descriptions or advertising, to the stored sets of program selection information (51).

5 11. A method of operating a server as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the server performs services for managing group lists and/or user profiles via remote computer terminals (70) with which it is connected via a data transmission network.

12. A method of operating a server as claimed in claim 9 or 11, characterized in
10 that it controls access by recording/reproducing devices (10, 20, 30) or computer terminals (70) to the information managed by it by reference to subscriber lists.